

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK**

October 9, 2014

5:30 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Mayor James Calnon, Councilors Rachelle Armstrong (W1), Mike Kelly (W2), Dale Dowdle (W3), Paul O'Connell (W4), Becky Kasper (W5), Joshua Kretser (W6)

Absent: None

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Common Council held on September 25, 2014 are approved and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor Kretser; Seconded by Councilor Kasper

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser

(All voted in the affirmative)

2. PAYROLLS OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS:

RESOLVED: That the payrolls of the various Departments of the City of Plattsburgh for the weeks ending October 1, 2014 in the amount of \$ 270,033.35 and October 8, 2014 in the amount of \$267,823.12 are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and the City Clerk are hereby empowered and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Armstrong; Seconded by Councilor Dowdle

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser

(All voted in the affirmative)

3. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES & COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Report of Fire and Ambulance Responses for the weeks of September 25 – October 8, 2014
- Report from the Building Inspector's office October 7, 2014

RESOLVED: That the reports as listed are hereby ordered received and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor Kelly; Seconded by Councilor Dowdle

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser

(All voted in the affirmative)

4. CORRESPONDENCE OR RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOARDS: None

5. AUDIT OF CLAIMS:

RESOLVED: That the bills Audited by the Common Council for the weeks ending October 3, 2014 in the amount of \$ 798,204.52 and October 10, 2014 in the amount of \$ 716,777.63 are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor O'Connell; Seconded by Councilor Kretser
Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser
(All voted in the affirmative)

6. PERSONS ADDRESSING COUNCIL:

William Drew, 13 Mason Drive, spoke of his concerns before the Council votes on the Franchise Agreement with Charter Communications about the rates they are charging.

7. OTHER ITEMS:

A. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves that the Mayor be and is authorized to sign Cable Franchise Agreement between the City of Plattsburgh and Falcon First Cable Inc.(Charter Communications).

By Councilor Kasper; Seconded by Councilor Kelly
Discussion:

Councilor Armstrong said I thank you for your comment and I really do appreciate it but it seems like that's a consideration they will need to take up in the next round of negotiations with the contract would that be the case?

Mayor Calnon said we are authorizing a lengthy contract it is 15 years.

Councilor Kasper said since it has been awhile since we had this discussion would Corporation Counsel refresh us on what we are bound to and what they are bound to.

Corporation Counsel Dean Schneller said it is a lengthy contract. It was approved by the consortium which is the City, County and numerous Towns. This company is bound by the Public Service commission, FCC their rules so there is a lot of language referring to compliance with those regulations.

[Further discussion on this topic]

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

B. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the City Chamberlain to transfer \$70,120 from the 2014 Contingency and \$58,413.82 from the 2014 NYS Employees Retirement budget items to cover various cost items unbudgeted in the General Fund under Judgments & Claims, Parks & Beautification, South End Park, Street Maintenance and Reserve for Property Tax Revenue.

By Councilor Kasper; Seconded by Councilor Dowdle
Discussion:

Councilor Kasper is concerned after reading Richard's letter that these transfers exhaust the general fund contingency. Do we have expectations of needing more contingency funds?

Mayor Calnon said we don't see anything at this point we do have the ability to transfer funds within the budget if something comes up.

[Further discussion on this topic]

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

C. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Amended and restated bond resolution of the City of Plattsburgh, New York, adopted October 9, 2014, authorizing Street Resurfacing and Improvements (project H5110.44), stating the estimated maximum cost thereof is \$1,500,000, appropriating said amount therefore, authorizing the issuance of up to \$746,000 serial bonds of said city to finance a portion of said appropriation, and authorizing the issuance of up to \$746,000 bond anticipation notes of the city for the same purpose.

By Councilor Kelly; Seconded by Councilor Armstrong
Discussion:

Councilor Kasper said what is this for.

City Chamberlain Richard Marks said this Bond resolution is being adjusted for the Capital project revision that is coming later on the agenda.

[further discussion on this topic]

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

D. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Amended and restated bond resolution of the City of Plattsburgh, New York, adopted October 9, 2014, authorizing 2014 Saranac River Trail Design (project H5110.45), stating the estimated maximum cost thereof is \$230,000, appropriating said amount therefor, authorizing the issuance of up to \$48,000 serial bonds of said city to finance a portion of said appropriation, and authorizing the issuance of up to \$48,000 bond anticipation notes of the city for the same purpose.

By Councilor Armstrong; Seconded by Councilor Dowdle
Discussion:

Councilor Kasper said her questions have to do with the percentage that this is of this bond for the Saranac River Trail relative to grants for the Saranac River Trail.

City Engineer Kevin Farrington discussed.

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

E. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Amended and restated bond resolution of the City of Plattsburgh, New York, adopted October 9, 2014, authorizing fire station 2 roof replacement and additional fire station 1 roof replacement work, stating the estimated maximum cost thereof is \$140,000, appropriating said amount therefor, authorizing the issuance of up to \$140,000 serial bonds of said city to finance said appropriation, and authorizing the issuance of up to \$140,000 bond anticipation notes of the city for the same purpose.

By Councilor O'Connell; Seconded by Councilor Dowdle
Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

F. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the City Chamberlain to revise capital project 2014 Street Resurfacing (H5110.44) by increasing the total cost to \$1,500,000, as authorized by a previously adopted bond resolution for \$1,500,000 of even date.

By Councilor Kelly; Seconded by Councilor Kretser
Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

G. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the City Chamberlain to revise capital project 2014 Saranac River Trail Design (H5110.45) by increasing the total cost to \$230,000, as authorized by a previously adopted bond resolution for \$230,000 of even date.

By Councilor Kelly; Seconded by Councilor O'Connell

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

H. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the City Chamberlain to revise capital project 2014 Building Improvements (H3410.37) by increasing the total cost to \$140,000, as authorized by a previously adopted bond resolution for \$140,000 of even date.

By Councilor Armstrong; Seconded by Councilor O'Connell

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

I. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves a leave of absence for Kristofer Gushlaw from his position as Wastewater Operator in the Water Pollution Control Plant effective October 6, 2014 to take provisional appointment of Assistant Chief Plant Operator until his probationary requirements are completed. Leave of absence not to exceed one year from date October 6, 2014.

By Councilor Kretser; Seconded by Councilor Kasper

Discussion:

Councilor Dowdle asked if this is a newly created position or something that's been vacant for a while.

Environmental Manager Jon Ruff said this was a position that was created a few months ago. We took an existing Wastewater Operator position and converted it.

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

J. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves that the Mayor is authorized to sign Change Order #1 to Contract #2014-14 "Champlain Valley Transportation Museum, PIN 7804.83; D03 0445 in the amount of \$75,615.

By Councilor Kretser; Seconded by Councilor Kasper

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

8. TRAVEL REQUEST:

A. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves one Police Officer to attend the "State Preparedness Training Center Instructor Development Workshop" in Oriskany, NY from October 21 – 23, 2014 at an estimated cost of \$229 and will be expensed out of the Asset Forfeiture fund.

By Councilor Kelly; Seconded by Councilor Dowdle

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

B. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves one Police Officer to attend a Federal Trial (People vs. Barro) in Brooklyn, NY from October 14-16, 2014 at an estimated cost of \$232 and will be expensed out of the Asset Forfeiture fund and is expected to be reimbursed by the Department of Justice.

By Councilor Kretser; Seconded by Councilor O'Connell

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

C. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves two Police Officers to attend the "MRAP Safety Training" in Lake George, NY on October 17, 2014 at an estimated cost of \$782 and will be expensed out of the Asset Forfeiture fund.

By Councilor Dowdle; Seconded by Councilor Armstrong

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

D. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves one Recreation employee to attend the New York State Turfgrass Association Expo in Rochester New York from November 11-14, 2014 at a cost not to exceed \$900.

By Councilor Kelly; Seconded by Councilor Dowdle
Discussion:

Councilor Kelly said I wonder if this person will become our go to guy for any turfgrass issues we might have in the city.

Mayor Calnon said yes.

Councilor Kelly said that's a pretty good asset to have.

Councilor Armstrong asked if his training is particularly focused for the installation of turf on the Oval.

Mayor Calnon said a big reason for doing it is we think the Oval is under-utilized as a recreational area. In part because the turf can't take the pressure.

Councilor O'Connell said if other fields need something he'd be the expert to go to because he has the training.

Mayor Calnon said yes this gives us in house capacity which is good for us all.

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

9. RESOLUTIONS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION:

1. Request from Environmental Manager Jon Ruff for Janelle Henry to attend the "Activated Sludge Wastewater Treatment Plant Process" in Morrisville, NY from November 16 – 20, 2014 at an estimated cost of \$1,375.
2. Request from Environmental Manager Jon Ruff to attend a "Train the Trainer course in Clinton, NY from December 10 -11, 2014 at an estimated cost of \$900.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

Councilor Armstrong wanted to acknowledge all of the hard work and good work that the Councilors are doing.

Councilor O'Connell said he had a local Ward Forum last night had a good turnout and some really good discussions. First thing that was pointed out to him was the cooperation and the diligence that Public Works had from the Votraws on Addoms Street because of cars parked they couldn't see their garbage so they made a call and it was picked up the very next day. They wanted him to pass on their appreciation and I reaffirm it is a great department. Still in a quandary about alternate side parking on another subject.

Councilor Kretser wanted to echo what Paul said about the Department of Public Works. He received word from Jessica Dulle who is the Executive Director at the Strand Center for the Arts. There was a massive pot hole right next to the entrance of their parking lot and I sent them an email in the evening and the next morning it was filled. Thank you so much Jessica Dulle and her staff at the Arts Center really appreciate it and so do their struts and shocks in their cars.

Councilor Armstrong said we will have our first work session on the Budget next week after the hearing. Want to switch one budget session to the 29th which is a Wednesday.

Mayor Calnon announced there will be a MLD Board of Directors meeting following this meeting.

11. CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Kasper; Seconded by Councilor O'Connell
Roll call Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser
(All voted in the affirmative)

MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:10 pm